

furnished unto all good works. This scripture reveals its author, it is God. There is no higher. Then why should man put something in its place. If one of our Brethren should steal, we have written in the Law of God thou shalt not steal, this is corroborated in the new covenant, he that has stole let him steal no more, and that no covetous person can enter the Kingdom of Heaven. So we might take any or all the evils and we can find scripture bearing on them to their condemnation.

I have seen the time when the German Baptist ministers would preach against creeds with all their might and main, but alas a quiet has swept over them. Since 1882, their voices have been stilled by the mandatory decision passed that year and placed on their minute book, into one great law to govern the church.

Where, oh where, has God given legislative authority to his people? Brethren we had better do to little than to much. But says one how can we maintain the principles that are so sacred to the brethren. Such as Trine immersion, Feet washing, Lord supper, Holy kiss, and so forth.

This we believe can best be done. 1st. When our district meetings assemble let some of our ablest ministers take up those subjects and as at those meetings there are always a good many preachers present, they will be taught in the doctrines of the Bible; instead of holding business sessions at night let us have one good sermon each evening; let National Conference do likewise. Then let some one who is competent take a synopsis of these sermons and send them to the EVANGELIST so the brethren every where can read them, and give them to their neighbors. Then a day of peace and tranquility will dawn upon us undreamed of. May God bless his church and people every where.

Montour, Iowa. July 1st, 94.

CONVENTION THOUGHTS.

BY J. C. CASSEL.

I have been expecting to see the National Conference program for some time but as yet there appears to be no indications of one. Is it possible that we will come together from great distances, from the four points of the com-

pass, simply to attend to some dry routine of purely business matters, without some inspiration, or new life being awakened by carefully prepared papers by our best thinkers and close observers? If there are any leading papers to be prepared, it is high time that those who are to prepare them should know it. There are many subjects that can be profitably discussed, in fact every advancing step should be thoroughly ventilated before it is adopted. It is talk, discussion, agitation, that creates sentiment; without sentiment to sustain them actions will avail nothing. This is the secret of the failure of rules and laws in all organizations, they are adopted by a few before there is sufficient sentiment created to sustain them; let us avoid this error. In our congregational system there is no power to sway the masses except *talk*, TALK. If a good thing has been talked about before, that is no reason that it should not be talked over again. If the preachers would tell sinners that he had told them the truth once, that he was not going to do it again, there would be very few of them converted. Just so with every advancing step in church work it must be "drummed" into people's heads before they will fall in with it.

The plan advanced by Bro. Harrison a few weeks ago to hold National Conferences only every two years commends itself very favorably to my mind for the reasons he stated.

The prerogatives of our conferences should be defined very early in the next conference. The present generation which organized the Brethren church upon such principles as they deemed right should throw some safe guards around her for the perpetuity of those principles. Not so much for the guidance of future generations, (which I suppose will be able to take care of themselves,) as to empathize upon the pages of history the position of the church at this time.

I cannot help but feel that our young people, (and the church through them) are unfortunate in the choice of the name adopted for their organization. King's Children is a very pretty name, and would to God that all were such, but aside from the sentiment expressed by it, there is nothing to commend it as

a name for our Young People's Society, and there are weighty reasons why it should be changed. In the first place it expresses no purpose, and assumes a fact which may, or may not be true. Membership in the King's Children Society is no assurance that all that belong to it are actually adopted children of our great King, it is therefore presumptuous to give them that name. Practically we set ourselves up as the Judge. By conferring that name upon such as may apply for membership. We will do well to let Christ do his own judging and conferring of honors, it is not within our province; we should therefore not do anything that has even the semblance of it.

Secondly, the name is inadequate, and will largely contract the otherwise natural growth and usefulness of the society. Young people, like preachers and bumble-bees are often the biggest right after they are hatched. That is if they are brought into the church at the age of twenty or over; many will not feel like joining a CHILDREN'S society, and a society made up of those under twenty years of age will always be weak. Again the name naturally excludes young people of more advanced years. The writer is forty-five and belongs to the Y. P. S. C. E., but he would be slow to join a society by the name of King's Children as he would feel that the name indicates that he was not wanted. While the name adopted will of course be adopted by some it will interfere with early earnest co-operation of all our Young People's Societies. The practical common sense of the Pennsylvania dutch will be slow to accept it.

Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor is broad, expressive and comprehensive which should have been the name of our society, whether under the auspices of the National Society, or not.

June 25th 1894.

No man can ever pray right who lives wrong.

The religion that costs nothing does nothing.

Be a blessing and you will be sure to receive one.

No wound hurts like the one inflicted by a friend.

Faultfinding is one of the surest marks of a backslider.